



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

October 26, 2005

# News Release

## **ICE AGENTS SEIZE 600K CASH NEAR SAN JUAN AIRPORT**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico -- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents seized approximately \$600,000 near the Luis Munoz Marin International Airport in the municipality of Carolina, Puerto Rico.

At approximately 3 p.m. yesterday, Puerto Rico Police Department (PRPD) officers intervened with a Spanish national in the vicinity of Isla Verde, Carolina, Puerto Rico, after police officers stopped him for a traffic violation. As the result of the vehicle stop the occupant voluntarily gave consent for a search of the vehicle. The search revealed a black gym-type bag containing approximately \$300,000 in small denominations. ICE agents responded to the scene and obtained consent from the individual to search his apartment.

During the search, ICE agents found and confiscated approximately \$300,000 dollars at the individual's apartment for a total seizure of \$600,000. ICE agents took custody of the alleged contraband and will conduct an investigation to determine if the money seized yesterday is the product of drug trafficking and/or illegal money laundering operations on the island.

"This latest seizure shows once more how ICE is working with other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in Puerto Rico to deter illegal activity and drugs from reaching the streets of Puerto Rico," said the Acting ICE Special Agent-in-Charge, Lydia St. John-Mellado.

The ICE investigation into this seizure is on going and the agency does not rule out future arrests linked to this investigation.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*

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